

Pro & Contra

The Case for Braceroism

A. Americans won't do farm work

- ✓ 1. pp. 14-15, first Cobey statement
2. Quote from tomato wage survey, p. 11, "The wage-price squeeze"
3. 1942 recruitment efforts
4. The "labor shortage" in peaches, 1959 (p. 12 of the wage-price squeeze)
- ✓ 5. Pilibos and Les Hubbard statements.
6. Underemployment in Southeast.
7. Relief rolls -- because can make more on relief.
8. Youth Corps: potentially tens of thousands; but will flop unless ag labor invested with some dignity.
- ✓ 9. Disqualified bracero-users
- ✓ 10. What happened everywhere Farm Placement Service said, with firmness, "That's all." Washington, Idaho, Oregon. Peaches, olives, apricots, etc.
- 11.

B. "You can't get blood from a turnip."

1. Are already paying more than min. wage to contractors and b-assns.
2. Small growers already paying more
3. Farm wages a negligible part of total costs in many crops
4. Wage increases in "administered" crops, such as sugar beets would be accompanied by price increases.
5. Would like to see books...
6. Nobody went out of business when AWOC hiked wages 25%.
7. Ultimately, housewives will pay. Not a question of whether they want to or not, anymore than they want to pay more for medical care and housing. People must eat, just as they must have medical care and housing. /

C. Out-of-area competition would ruin us.

already written.

D. Price increases would be catastrophic.

1. America ~~already~~ has cheapest food in civilized world.
2. Price increases would be minuscule (p. 15, wage price squeeze)
3. Would be worth it, whatever it costs.

E. Threats to use the captive labor

1. Wetbacks, already written except for data
2. Filipinos, Japanese,
3. Green cards
- 4.

F. Cost-price squeeze - no control over market

1. Vertically integrated corps. can't complain
2. Corps. for buying would have influence
3. Corps. for selling would have influence

G. Agric. is unique in that "foodstuffs are perishable; 2. can't control the weather; 3. harvest strikes millions
4. Braceros want to come

I. cheap, effective foreign aid program.